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UNCLAS

FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY, DELIVERY IMMEDIATELY TO DAVID
COMPART WHITE HOUSE FOR IMMEDIATE DELIVERY JANKA
SECRETARY'S MIDDLE EAST TRIP MEDIA REACTION-V (TAKE
THREE OF FOUR)

ROME: FRIDAY'S INDEPENDENT CORRIERE DELLA SERA OF MILAN FRONTPAGED A REPORT BY A CAIRO CORRESPONDENT WHO STATED THAT THE "TURNING POINT OF THE SECRETARY'S MISSION CAME WHEN SYRIA RELINQUISHED ITS RIGID ATTITUDE. IT NO LONGER OPPOSES A PARTIAL SINAI AGREEMENT."

INDEPENDENT-CONSERVATIVE IL MESSAGGERO OF ROME JUDGED FRIDAY THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS BRINGING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON DAMASCUS AND CAIRO FOR ANOTHER "DIPLOMATIC STEP" ALONG WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER.

IL GIORNALE OF MILAN CARRIED A JERUSALEM CORRESPONDENT'S FORECAST FOR "NEW SUCCESS FOR KISSINGER'S DIPLOMACY." HE WROTE, "NO MATTER HOW THINGS STAND, THE DEFINITE IMPRESSION IS THAT KISSINGER HAS ONCE AGAIN SUCCEEDED IN MAKING EVERYONE HAPPY, RELAUNCHING NEGOTIATIONS AT THE VERY TIME EVERYBODY THOUGHT THERE WERE AT A DEAD END. THIS SITUATION WAS HELPED BY KING FEISAL'S COOPERATION."

THE SOCIALIST PARTY OFFICIAL ORGAN AVANTI OF ROME STATED, "THE IMPRESSION IS THAT KISSINGER IS TRYING TO REACH A PARTIAL AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD PUT A TEMPORARY HALT TO THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, APART FROM ANY DEVELOPMENTS ON THE GENEVA CONFERENCE. IN OTHER WORDS, IF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE FAILS, KISSINGER'S AGREEMENT WOULD BECOME OPERATIVE AS AN EMERGENCY AGREEMENT MAINTAINING AN ARMISTICE FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS."

TOKYO: PUBLICLY FINANCED NHK TELEVISION, IN A REPORT FROM ITS CAIRO CORRESPONDENT, OBSERVED FRIDAY THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER RECEIVED A WARM WELCOME IN CAIRO. IT ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT EGYPT COULD NOT ACCEPT ISRAEL'S PROPOSAL FOR

PSN:047396

PAGE 01

TOR:046/08138Z

DTG:141935Z FEB 75

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A NO-WAR DECLARATION. INDEPENDENT MODERATE YOMIURI SAID FRIDAY THAT THE PROBLEM OF PLO PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE HAS CROPPED UP. IT STATED THAT THE PLO HAS BELIEVED TO HAVE EXPRESSED ITS DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GENEVA TALKS DURING FOREIGN MINISTER GROMKHO'S RECENT TALKS WITH PLO LEADER ARAPAT.

KUALA LUMPUR: THE PENANG STAR WROTE FRIDAY, "THE ISRAELES AND THE ARABS ARE NOW ARMED TO THE POINT THAT IF THEIR WAR RESUMES, A VICTORY BY EITHER SIDE WOULD PROBABLY BE A PYRRIC ONE." JUDGING THAT "IT WILL BE A BIG ORDER FOR DR. KISSINGER TO USE AN AGREEMENT FOR A NEW TRUCE LINE IN THE SINAI AS A STEPPING-STONE TOWARDS NEGOTIATIONS," THE PAPER SAID "AT THIS POINT THE RELATIVE BALANCE IN THE DESTRUCTIVE CAPABILITIES ARRAYED IN BOTH MIDDLE EAST CAMPS PROVIDES THE BEST HOPE THAT NEITHER SIDE WILL RISK ANOTHER PLUNGE INTO OPEN HOSTILITIES."

SEOUL: INDEPENDENT HANKUK ILBO STATED FRIDAY THAT IF THE SECRETARY'S PEACE EFFORTS FAILED IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IT WOULD BE EVIDENCE THAT THE U.S. INFLUENCE HAS WEAKENED IN THE AREA AND DR. KISSINGER MIGHT END NEGOTIATIONS.

CONSERVATIVE DONGA ILBO HELD THAT "EGYPT MAY TRY TO CONCLUDE THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR BECAUSE OF THE BELIEF THAT CANDIDATES IN NEXT YEAR'S U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WILL FAVOR ISRAEL...AND ISRAEL BELIEVES THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO DELAY NEGOTIATIONS. WE ARE GREATLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS...WE MUST PREVENT AN INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL CATASTROPHE."

CAIRO (CURRENT REPORT JUST RECEIVED): ALL PAPERS FRIDAY REPORTED FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMY'S COMMENT THAT GENERAL ATMOSPHERE OF KISSINGER'S "EXPLORATORY" VISIT WAS EXCELLENT AND KISSINGER'S DEPARTURE STATEMENT THAT CAIRO TALKS WERE "EXTREMELY POSITIVE." AL-AHRAH'S EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AHMED BAHAA EL-DIN SAID IN A FRONTPAGE COLUMN THAT, IN FACE OF AN INFLUENTIAL CONGRESS, NEITHER KISSINGER NOR THE WHITE HOUSE EXERCISES ABSOLUTE POWER IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THUS, KISSINGER "VERY MUCH NEEDS TO SUCCEED IN HIS MISSION THIS TIME." PRESENT PERIOD IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO ARABS SINCE "ENTIRE WORLD IS REFORMULATING ITS RELATIONS WITH THE ARAB WORLD IN LIGHT OF THE OCTOBER WAR AND ITS CONSEQUENCES."

AL-AHRAH'S CHIEF DIPLOMATIC REPORTER HANDEY RDUAD SAID THAT KISSINGER'S DECLARATION THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO MIDDLE EAST IN MARCH EMPHASIZED HOPE THAT DIFFERENCES IN EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI POSITIONS ARE NARROWING. "ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PASSES AND OILFIELDS IN SINAI AND THEN FROM THE GOLAN REPRESENTS REASONABLE FORMULA." (END TAKE THREE)
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PSN:047396

PAGE 02

OF 02

TOR:046/001302

DTG:141935Z FEB 78

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